

JOHN M. RITCHIE, a native son of Utah, prominent farmer and stock breeder of Wasatch County and bishop of the Charleston Ward of the Wasatch Stake, is a prominent representative of a family which has been identified with the civic, industrial and religious progress of this section of Utah since pioneer times.

Bishop Ritchie was born in the Heber community of Wasatch County, October 30, 1867, son of John and Sarah (McFee) Ritchie. His father came to Wasatch County in 1863, and from 1867 was a resident of the Charleston district. He was a hard worker, a high minded citizen, and lived to a very ripe old age, passing away at Charleston in February, 1932, in his eighty-ninth year.

The pioneer public schools of Wasatch County afforded John M. Ritchie his earlier education. Later he took the young men's course and the commercial course in Brigham Young University

Vol III

11-14-

4/15/

p 356

UTAH

357

at Provo, and for two and a half years was a student at the University of Utah. Mr. Ritchie in 1892 began teaching at Charleston, but since 1894 his primary attention has been directed to his growing agricultural and live stock interests. He had specialized in the breeding and raising of fine cattle and horses and his Percheron horses and Hereford cattle have a reputation all over the state. His prominent position as a live stock man received special recognition in 1930, when he was appointed a member of the board of trustees of the Utah State Fair. In 1932 he became president of the Wasatch County Fair Board.

Mr. Ritchie has been a man of tireless public spirit in community affairs. He was the first president of the Charleston Township board and has continued an active member of this board for many years. He has also served for a number of years as township trustee and for twelve years was a member of the board of county commissioners, serving as chairman of the board four terms. During 1897-99 he was absent from his native state on a church mission to Australia. On returning in 1899, he became a counselor to the bishop of his home ward. He filled that position for five years, when he was made bishop of the Charleston Ward, which position he still holds.

Bishop Ritchie married in October, 1891, Miss Sarah E. Wright, daughter of William Wright of the Charleston district. Mrs. Ritchie is a popular worker in her church and community and for eighteen years was counselor to the president of the relief society.

To the marriage of Bishop and Mrs. Ritchie were born nine children. Mabel, who passed away April 30, 1931, was the wife of William H. Hinlin, of Charleston. Another daughter, Vera, died about a year after her marriage, and the son Joseph William died in infancy. The living children are: Lacy, wife of Robert Nowers, of Beaver County; Elden, who married Miss Beth Murdoch, of Heber; Clyde, who in 1930 completed a church mission to the State of North Carolina, and is now active in business in Wasatch County and president of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of the Charleston Ward; Horace, on a church mission to Samoa; and Verdell and Relva, who are still



JOHN ALEXANDER FORTIE AND EMMA JANE JEFFS FORTIE

John Alexander Fortie was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, September 30, 1872, son of Alexander Fortie and Rachel Howarth Fortie.

John's father was a carpenter and so John worked with him and learned the trade.



When John was 18 years old, his father passed away, leaving John with a widowed mother to care for. Later his mother married William M. Giles, and John went to make his home with his sister and brother-in-law, Joseph A. Murdock.

John was called on a mission to the Southern States in February, 1895, and spent three years laboring among the people there. Upon his return home he was an active member of the Sunday School Board and later worked in the Mutual and was a teacher in Sunday School.

Emma Jane Jeffs Fortie was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, May 14, 1875. She is the daughter of Mark Walker Jeffs and Mary Carlile Jeffs.

When three years old, her mother died, leaving her father with three small children, Eliza Ann, Mary Elizabeth, and herself. Her father later married Sarah Ann Chatwin, who was a very good mother to them and was loved by all. Emma worked in her father's store a number of years before she was married.

On January 11, 1899, she and John Alexander Fortie were married in the Salt Lake Temple. To this union were born 11 children, among them two sets of twins. Only five children are now living, three girls and two boys.

On January 12, John, with his mother and his wife, left by train for Thatcher, Arizona, to visit with his sister Pamalie Clegg. They stayed in Thatcher till the last of March of that year and upon their return trip home visited in San Francisco and the Golden Gate Park.

John worked in Emma's father's store on his return to Heber. Two years later Emma's father bought Bishop Dave Van Wagener's store in Midway, and John and Emma moved to Midway to run the place. While

there, John was made a member of the Wasatch High Council, and also served as counselor to Bishop Jacob Probst. They lived in Midway seven years, and then the store was sold, and they returned to Heber. They were in Heber just a few weeks when John left for Duchesne to work in Al Murdock's store. His wife and children did not go there to make their home until the following year.

John was presiding Elder there until the ward was organized, and Al Murdock was made bishop and John chosen as his first counselor. Later, Victor Billings was bishop and John was a counselor to him.

While they lived in Duchesne they experienced the vicissitudes of pioneering. There were eight of them living in two small rooms. They had to carry their water from the river and in the summer it was always muddy, and in winter it was necessary to break the ice to obtain it. Sickness and death also visited their home, losing a set of twins while there. One of their children lay near death's door with typhoid fever for thirteen weeks. They also experienced all the childhood diseases with their family. During one of the many windstorms they lost the roof of their home.

After Emma's stepmother's death her father wanted them to return to Heber and work for him in his coal and lumber business, which later they owned and operated many years.

On the 29th day of October, 1916, John was ordained a Patriarch of Wasatch Stake and served in this position until his death.

Other positions he held were mayor Heber City, county commissioner, and president of the school board.

Emma worked in the Stake Relief Society as secretary, a position she held nine years. She was a counselor to Maybell Moulton in the Second Ward Relief Society and later served as president.

Emma and her sister Eliza had the pleasure of going to Mesa to the dedication of the Mesa Temple, and also visited with their sisters living there.

On November 18, 1953, John was stricken with a stroke and was confined to his bed three and one-half years. He passed away June 2, 1957.

Emma is still living and is 83 years old. She lives in her own home, does her own work, and is still enjoying good health.

Storm McDonald was born in Heber on November 1, 1890, son of Joseph S. McDonald and Mary Elizabeth Rasband McDonald. He attended schools of Heber. Millie Murdock was first grade teacher and Henry Aird, principal. He had as grade school teachers all three Wootton brothers, Will, George and Attewall. On fin-

424

ishing the eighth grade in Heber and there being no high school in our county, he attended BYU. Having taken up the clarinet under instruction of Uncle Moroni Morris, he returned to Heber nearly every weekend to play for dances with an Heber orchestra comprised of Jay Jensen, Andy Anderson, Dolph and Seymour Duke, Storm McDonald and Guy Alexander. He also played in the BYU band under Professor Sauer and in the concert orchestra under Professor Gudmunson. He studied English under Miss Schofield and algebra with Harvey Fletcher. This was in 1907 and 1908.

In the fall of 1908 the Wasatch High School opened, with J. W. Robinson as principal and James Johnson, Henry Raile, O. A. Whitaker, Hugh Holdaway and Miss Wilcox as the faculty. He was active there in music and athletics and in student affairs. The following year he graduated from three-year high school course as president of the class of 1910. He received a call to fill a mission in the Northern States, and left in June for Chicago. He served 26 months in the northern and southern Illinois conferences under German E. Ellsworth, mission president, and returned home in August, in time to enroll for fourth year high school. As editor of the first edition of "Wasona," year book of 1913, it was the largest and finest year book published to that time.

On invitation of Guy B. Alexander and the Thatchers of Logan to attend school at the Utah Agricultural College and to play in Thatcher's orchestra in their new Lyric Theater, he entered the college the fall of 1910 and was active in music there. He played in a Logan band, the college orchestra under Thatcher, and the Spicker college saxophone quartet, and during the next two years had charge of all dance music on the campus. He also took part in the Logan Boosters' show each year and was "end man" in their minstrels. He found time to play baseball on the college team and won the "A" as pitcher on the baseball team. Specializing in irrigation and drainage, he graduated with the class of 1916 from the school of agriculture engineering.

Engaged to teach at Wasatch High at a salary of \$800 for the year, he taught at Wasatch for three years. Subjects were music, mathematics and English. During the second year he became interested in the

need for better library facilities in the county and was instrumental in persuading the state librarian, Miss Downey, from the State Capitol, to make several trips to Heber to study the situation and make recommendations. She and McDonald met with the Wasatch County Commission and persuaded them to levy a half-mill tax for county library purposes. Book donations and funds from the public were raised by means of dances and other activities, and the first county library board was created with Storm McDonald as the first president. James Ritchie, John A. Fortie and Jess Nelson were other board members and Millie Witt was librarian.

He served as Wasatch County Red Cross chairman two years.

Baseball interest was high at this time and a stake league was going strong, with a team representing each ward in the stake. There never were larger crowds nor more interest in baseball than in 1916 and 1917. Heber First and Second Wards were rated among the best. Storm McDonald was pitcher for Heber First Ward.

In Church work he was very active, being president of the Heber First Ward MIA, ward chorister and stake chorister, stake social committeeman, and stake missionary. He was Smith-Hughes agricultural instructor in high schools of the state in its early stages and was offered that position at Tooele High School. He moved to Tooele in September, 1919, in a Model-T truck. Boys under his direction took top honors at the Utah State Fair in judging and demonstrations. He also coached Tooele debaters to the state championship. He was Sunday school chorister in Tooele North Ward and played in the dance orchestra and on Tooele's baseball team.

After three years at Tooele he taught at Bingham High School a year, then took over the district manager's job for a Denver manufacturer for Utah and Idaho territory. While carrying on this work he purchased a home in Salt Lake and began some real estate work, which soon occupied all his time for about two years. He became interested in purchasing a meat and grocery business of Dan and Relia McMillan at Heber. With Moroni Moulton as partner, he purchased this business and built the two brick

homes on Main Street across from the high school.

However, he sold his interest in the business to his partner and returned to teaching at Wasatch High, teaching science and mathematics, and by 1935 he completed 20 years of high school teaching. During all this time he was active in community and Church affairs, serving as president of the Heber Lions Club, representative in State Legislature, president Utah Guernsey Breeders three terms, president of Utah Purebred Dairy Cattle Assn., director of the Utah Auto Dealers' Assn., and director of the American Dairy Association of Utah.

In June, 1917, he married Verna M. Jones of Lehi, Utah. They had four children, three boys and one girl: Guy S., Kent J., Joseph Ralph and Alice Elizabeth (Betty).

1st Co
Library
Bd
p425
Storm
McDonald
Pres

STOCK NO GA-00

PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, VT.

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER:
DATES: 14 Apr 1794

To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the person submitting the sheet, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

HUSBAND

Born _____

Chr. _____

Marr. _____

Died _____

Bur. _____

HUSBAND'S FATHER _____

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE

Born _____ Place _____

Chr. _____ Place _____

Died _____ Place _____

Bur. _____ Place _____

WIFE'S FATHER _____

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

SEX M F	CHILDREN		WHEN BORN			TOWN
	Given Names	SURNAME	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

STORM McDONALD

Storm McDonald was born in Heber on November 1, 1890, son of Joseph S. McDonald and Mary Elizabeth Rasband McDonald. He attended schools of Heber. Millie Murdock was first grade teacher and Henry Aird, principal. He had as grade school teachers all three Wootton brothers, Will, George and Attewall. On fin-
P424

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

ishing the eighth grade in Heber and there being no high school in our county, he attended BYU. Having taken up the clarinet under instruction of Uncle Moroni Morris, he returned to Heber nearly every weekend to play for dances with an Heber orchestra comprised of Jay Jensen, Andy Anderson, Dolph and Seymour Duke, Storm McDonald and Guy Alexander. He also played in the BYU band under Professor Sauer and in the concert orchestra under Professor Gudmunson. He studied English under Miss Schofield and algebra with Harvey Fletcher. This was in 1907 and 1908. In the fall of 1908 the Wasatch High School opened, with J. W. Robinson as principal and James Johnson, Henry Raile, O. A. Whitaker, Hugh Holdaway and Miss Wilcox as the faculty. He was active there in music and athletics and in student affairs. The following year he graduated from three-year high school course as president of the class of 1910. He received a call to fill a mission in the Northern States, and left in June for Chicago. He served 26 months in the northern and southern Illinois conferences under German E. Ellsworth, mission president, and returned home in August, in time to enroll for fourth year high school. As editor of the first edition of "Wasatch" year book of 1913, it was the largest and finest year book published to that time. On invitation of Guy B. Alexander and the Thatchers of Logan to attend school at the Utah Agricultural College and to play in Thatcher's orchestra in their new Lyric Theater, he entered the college the fall of 1910 and was active in music there. He played in a Logan band, the college orchestra under Thatcher, and the Spicker college saxophone quartet, and during the next two years had charge of all dance music on the campus. He also took part in the Logan Boosters' show each year and was "end man" in their minstrels. He found time to play baseball on the college team and won the "A" as pitcher on the baseball team. Specializing in irrigation and drainage, he graduated with the class of 1916 from the school of agriculture engineering. Engaged to teach at Wasatch High at a salary of \$800 for the year, he taught at Wasatch for three years. Subjects were music, mathematics and English. During the second year he became interested in the

Husband

need for better library facilities in the county and was instrumental in persuading the state librarian, Miss Downey, from the State Capitol, to make several trips to Heber to study the situation and make recommendations. She and McDonald met with the Wasatch County Commission and persuaded them to levy a half-mill tax for county library purposes. Book donations and funds from the public were raised by means of dances and other activities, and the first county library board was created with Storm McDonald as the first president. James Ritchie, John A. Fortie and Jess Nelson were other board members and Millie Witt was librarian. He served as Wasatch County Red Cross chairman two years. Baseball interest was high at this time and a stake league was going strong, with a team representing each ward in the stake. There never were larger crowds nor more interest in baseball than in 1916 and 1917. Heber First and Second Wards were rated among the best. Storm McDonald was pitcher for Heber First Ward. In Church work he was very active, being president of the Heber First Ward MIA, ward chorister and stake chorister, stake social committeeman, and stake missionary. He was Smith-Hughes agricultural instructor in high schools of the state in its early stages and was offered that position at Tooele High School. He moved to Tooele in September, 1919, in a Model-T truck. Boys under his direction took top honors at the Utah State Fair in judging and demonstrations. He also coached Tooele debaters to the state championship. He was Sunday school chorister in Tooele North Ward and played in the dance orchestra and on Tooele's baseball team. After three years at Tooele he taught at Bingham High School a year, then took over the district manager's job for a Denver manufacturer for Utah and Idaho territory. While carrying on this work he purchased a home in Salt Lake and began some real estate work, which soon occupied all his time for about two years. He became interested in purchasing a meat and grocery business of Dan and Relia McMillan at Heber. With Moroni Moulton as partner, he purchased this business and built the two brick

homes on Main Street across from the high school. However, he sold his interest in the business to his partner and returned to teaching at Wasatch High, teaching science and mathematics, and by 1935 he completed 20 years of high school teaching. During all this time he was active in community and Church affairs, serving as president of the Heber Lions Club, representative in State Legislature, president Utah Guernsey Breeders three terms, president of Utah Purebred Dairy Cattle Assn., director of the Utah Auto Dealers' Assn., and director of the American Dairy Association of Utah. In June, 1917, he married Verna M. Jones of Lehi, Utah. They had four children, three boys and one girl: Guy S., Kent J., Joseph Ralph and Alice Elizabeth (Betty).

RY EXPLANATIONS



Nellie C. DeGraff



Nellie C. DeGraff

THOMAS AND MARGARET TODD



Thomas Todd Sr. was born January 28, 1821, in Scotland, son of John and Marion Lorimer Todd.

He married Margaret Shankland in January, 1850, on her twenty-fifth birthday, and moved to Heber City in May, 1860.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and in 1909, Thomas Todd passed away, being 88 years of age.

Nine children were born to this couple: John, James, Thomas Jr., Margaret, Marion Jane, Isabelle Helen, Sarah Ann, John M. Murdoch and David Alexander.

As he recalled his early childhood, he was most impressed by the deep religious convictions of his parents. Throughout his life he gave expression to the love he held for his brothers and sisters. They, too, in their letters to him were continually expressing their love for him and for each other.

He was reared in an atmosphere of strict adherence to prayer and in promptness and orderliness. These characteristics he never deserted.

Thomas Todd was a farmer, as was his father, working often as a servant plowman.

He was in his early twenties when he began work in public service. It was at this

492

time that he, along with some other young men, assisted in establishing a library in the town of Tinwald.

In January, 1850, he was married to Margaret Shankland, second daughter of James Shankland and Margaret Cummin of Durrisdier, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in her twenty-fifth year.

These two young people had much in common in the similarity of their early training. Both had been taught stern adherence to their religious convictions. Both were trained to be industrious, true and meticulously neat and orderly. These virtues characterized their whole lives.

During the summer of the year of their marriage they accepted the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Four years later, Thomas Todd, his wife Margaret and their two sons sailed from Liverpool on the ship "John M. Wood," landing in New Orleans in eight weeks. From there they took a river boat up the Mississippi to St. Louis, then on to Kansas, where they made preparations to make a land journey of 1,200 miles by ox team.

Thomas Todd was appointed to take charge of 10 wagons across the plains. There were 10 persons to a wagon. That long journey across the plains lasted three months, lacking one day, and they reached Salt Lake Valley on October 1, 1854.

Immediately after his arrival he made arrangements with Brother Levi Savage to work his land on shares. He planted 9 1/2 acres of wheat before the winter storms came.

The following spring, 1855, his fields looked good, but the grasshoppers came again and destroyed fields far and near. Thomas and Margaret were successful in saving a part of their wheat.

When the grain was ripe the two of them pulled the whole of their crop by hand. Half of this harvest belonged to the land owner. They were happy to have their 19 1/2 bushels of wheat.

In the fall of 1857 he bought a cow, the "first cow I ever owned," he said. They sold bedding to raise the \$40 to pay for it.

Shortly after this, Thomas Todd was called to Echo Canyon when Johnston's army was on its way to Utah. He was 66 days before returning to Salt Lake City. Again, in the early spring, he was called to

go to Echo Canyon and Lost Station as a captain of 50 men. This time they were out about four months, until the close of the Utah war. While he was away his family was moved to Spanish Fork, to the home of James Laird.

When his release came he went to Spanish Fork, where he bought a lot for \$10. Here he built a two-room house.

The Todd family made their next and last big move in May, 1860, when they came to Heber City in the beautiful Provo Valley. Thomas had previously taken up some land and fenced it, planting five or six acres in wheat.

It was during the following year that Fort Sumpter was surrendered to the Confederate army and, as in other communities of our nation, the state militia was organized. John Wesley Witt was appointed major and Thomas Todd was appointed first captain of the infantry in C company.

He served two terms as selectman, one beginning in 1862 and the other in 1871. He was appointed road supervisor, a job he held many years. Later he was made county road commissioner. It was his opportunity to sign, with others, the peace treaty to settle the Indian troubles with Old Tabby.

Thomas Todd never wavered in his testimony of the gospel. He was ever ready to fill his calling in this capacity.

He presided over the teachers in the Sixth Ward in Salt Lake City and was later ordained a Seventy.

In Spanish Fork he was a teacher in the Quorum of Seventy, and when he came to Heber was first counselor in the High Priests' Quorum. Later he acted as first counselor to two bishops.

He was a very good singer and led the Heber choir many years.

The custom of a 24-gun salute at sunrise as a commencement to a celebration of the Fourth of July was under the direction of Thomas Todd through the years.

With all his activities in public life, his greatest achievement was in his home, along with his good wife. Thomas and Margaret were the parents of eight children, men and women of integrity. They lived in a home of love, understanding and fairness to each other.

Their lovely home, with its beautiful

flowers and well-kept garden, was their joy. Many a rare plant was nurtured to bloom and it was in this garden that the first rose bushes in Provo Valley were planted.

Their home was made attractive with Margaret Todd's handiwork. In addition to being an excellent housekeeper, she was a wonderful cook and a gracious hostess. She was an artist in her selections and a perfectionist in her skills in the home arts of her time.

This hard-working couple had little patience with lazy or shiftless people, but were ever ready to help any who came their way. They extended the hand of fellowship to many who needed their blessing.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with an open house in their home.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and two years later her devoted husband passed away, when he was 88 years of age.